

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (canceled)

14. (new) A method of wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising the steps of:

communicating data between a wireless LAN base station and a user terminal, the wireless LAN base station being in a common space of a shopping center managed by a manager thereof and the wireless LAN base station being shared by plural service providers that connect to an internet;

collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal when the user terminal communicates with the wireless LAN base station using wireless LAN communication;

transmitting the data of the communication amount and communication time to a service management server of the shopping center; and

calculating a charge for usage of the wireless LAN base station by the user terminal in accordance with the data of the communication amount and communication time, wherein a one of the plural service providers contracted with a user of the user terminal pays the charge to the manager.

15. (new) A system for wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising:

a wireless LAN base station in a common space of a shopping center managed by a manager thereof, said wireless LAN base station being shared by plural service providers that connect to an internet;

a user terminal that communicates with said wireless LAN base station using wireless LAN communication;

a service management server of the shopping center;

means for collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal when said user terminal communicates with said wireless LAN base station using the wireless LAN communication;

means for transmitting the data of the communication amount and communication time to said service management server;  
and

means for calculating a charge for usage of said wireless LAN base station by said user terminal in accordance with the data of the communication amount and communication time, wherein a one of said plural service providers contracted with a user of said user terminal pays the charge to the manager.

16. (new) The system according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for setting a time period for using said wireless LAN base station for the each of the plural service providers; and

means for refusing connection of said user terminal when a time of usage thereof is out of the set time period for using said wireless LAN base station.

17. (new) The system according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for ranking each of the service providers in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from the service providers with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections.

18. (new) The system according to claim 15, further comprising:

means for ranking each said user in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from said user with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or

in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections.

19. (new) A method of wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising the steps of:

communicating data between a wireless LAN base station and a user terminal, the wireless LAN base station being in a common space of a shopping center managed by a manager thereof and the wireless LAN base station being shared by plural service providers that connect to an internet;

identifying a one of the plural service providers contracted with a user of the user terminal that communicates with the wireless LAN base station;

collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of the user terminal when the user terminal communicates with the wireless LAN base station using wireless LAN communication; and

calculating a charge for usage of the wireless LAN base station by the user terminal in accordance with the data of the communication amount and communication time, wherein the one of the plural service providers contracted with the user of the user terminal pays the charge to the manager.

20. (new) A system for wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising:

a wireless LAN base station in a common space of a shopping center managed by a manager thereof, said wireless LAN

base station being shared by plural service providers that connect to an internet;

a user terminal that communicates with said wireless LAN base station using wireless LAN communication;

means for identifying a one of the service providers contracted with a user of said user terminal that communicates with said wireless LAN base station;

means for collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal when said user terminal communicates with said wireless LAN base station using the wireless LAN communication; and

means for calculating a charge for usage of said wireless LAN base station by said user terminal in accordance with the data of the communication amount and communication time, wherein the one of said plural service providers contracted with the user of said user terminal pays the charge to the manager.

21. (new) The system according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for setting a time period for using said wireless LAN base station for the each of the plural service providers; and

means for refusing connection of said user terminal when a time of usage thereof is out of the set time period for using said wireless LAN base station.

22. (new) The system according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for ranking each of the service providers in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from the service providers with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections.

23. (new) The system according to claim 20, further comprising:

means for ranking each said user in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN base station; and

means for restricting connection in order from said user with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN base station exceeds a preset number of connections.